

**Amendments To The Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-20 (Cancelled)

- Claim 21      An oral rinse composition, comprising:  
                 at least about 0.04% benzocaine,  
                 less than about 10% by weight carbomer; and  
                 a solvent system comprising water as a predominate solvent.
- Claim 22      The composition of claim 21 wherein said composition is free of aliphatic  
                 alcoholic solvents.
- Claim 23      The composition of claim 21 comprising greater than about 80% by  
                 weight water.
- Claim 24.      The composition of claim 23 comprising from about 0.04 to about 5 % by  
                 weight of said benzocaine.
- Claim 25.      The composition of claim 24 wherein the weight ratio of said benzocaine  
                 to said carbomer is about 2:1.
- Claim 26.      The composition of claim 25 comprising greater than about 90% by  
                 weight water.
- Claim 27.      The composition of claim 23 comprising a neutralizing agent in an amount  
                 effective to provide the composition with a pH of about 8 or greater.

Claim 28. The composition of claim 27 comprising from about 0.001% to about 3% by weight of said neutralizing agent.

Claim 29. The composition of claim 28 wherein said neutralizing agent comprises triethanolamine.

Claim 30. The composition of claim 21 wherein said composition is free of non-alcoholic organic solvents.

Claim 31. The composition of claim 30 comprising greater than about 80% by weight of said water, from about 0.04% to about 5% by weight of said benzocaine, up to about 10% by weight of said carbomer, and from about 0.001% to about 3% by weight of said neutralizing agent, said composition having a pH of about 8 or higher.